

GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 64, No. 3

Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Gulf Defender*

Jan. 21, 2005

In brief

Tops in Blue

Tops in Blue will perform at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Panama City Marina Civic Center. Tickets will be available starting at 10 a.m. Tuesday at both the Base Community Center and the Downtown Marina. Tops In Blue is the Air Force's premier entertainment showcase. It brings the best in music, dance and comedy — all performed by men and women in blue who perform 90 minutes of non-stop live entertainment for the entire family.

Water outage

325th Civil Engineer Squadron personnel will replace a fire hydrant on Lincoln Drive in the Bay View housing area 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday. The following homes in Bay View will be without water during this time ... 2402, 2404, 2406, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2414, 2415 and 2417. For more information, call 283-4948 or 283-4949.

What's inside

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1st Lt. Albert Bosco

Looking up

Airmen 1st Class Cliff Ferrero and Kevin Ramer, F-15 Eagle Mission Ready Airmen course students, follow F-15 technical orders during a post flight cockpit inspection training session. Both students have completed two of their four weeks of crew chief certification training. For more about different Tyndall training missions, see Page 9.

Air Force Secretary Roche officially retires

STAFF SGT. APRIL LAPETODA
89th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. (AFPN) — Airmen, along with servicemembers from more than 14 nations, bid farewell to the 20th Secretary of the Air Force Tuesday.

Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz presented Air Force Secretary Dr. James Roche the Department of Defense award for distinguished public service upon his retirement. His wife, Diane, was recognized with the exceptional civilian service award.

Flanked by Airmen with an F/A-22 Raptor in the background, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper was the host of the event and spoke on changes the Air Force has seen under the direction of Secretary Roche. He said the secretary's personal touch affected each Airman's life.

"(Secretary Roche will be remembered for) all he has done for them, for our Air Force and for our nation," the general said.

Mr. Wolfowitz presided over the ceremony and hailed the secretary for his "out of the box" thinking, using the Air Force in a new combat role with the Army and for instilling unique improvements in education for enlisted Airmen.

The secretary was appointed in 2001 and has been responsible for the affairs of the Department of the Air Force, including the organizing, training, equipping, and providing for the welfare of its nearly 370,000 Airmen on active duty, 180,000 Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Airmen, 160,000 civilians and their families.

Secretary Roche spoke of leadership lessons he learned in his earlier Naval career from



Larry McTighe

Air Force Secretary Dr. James G. Roche is escorted through a pass-and-review of the troops during his retirement ceremony here.

Navy Adms. Arliegh Burke and Hyman Rickover in solving complex problems, and how those lessons have stood the test of time. The secretary closed by emotion-

ally reading a verse from the Navy hymn, "Eternal Father, Strong to Save." The alternate verse was written by Mary Hamilton in 1915.

Home of Air Dominance training

Do I really need to lug around all this stuff?

CAPT. SUSAN A. ROMANO
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

As you probably know, next week the base is conducting Crown Royal 05-01, or better known to the masses as a wing-wide deployment exercise.

Included in the exercise will be attack response and anti-terrorism scenarios, a major accident response exercise that includes weapons of mass destruction, and a demonstration of our ability to survive and operate in the battlefield.

For those ‘playing’ in the exercise, it’s required to process through the deployment line with bags of heavy equipment, supplies and for some, weapons. The bags include the full chemical warfare ensemble and mask, field gear (web belt, canteen, holster, mask carrier), uniforms, undergarments, warm or cold weather gear, toiletries, and various other necessities.

Come on now, we’ve all done it ... we’ve skimped on what really needs to be in those bags during an exercise. Instead of a full set of three full uniforms,

“As the saying goes, we train like we fight, and that’s what these exercises are all about.”

CAPT. SUSAN A. ROMANO
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

you’ve only shoved in one or two. You’ve rolled up on pair of socks, one T-shirt, one pair of underwear, and maybe the token toothbrush to represent all other required toiletries. You don’t fill up your canteen to the brim because it gets too heavy. You don’t even bother lugging your A-bag with a sleeping bag and field mess kit—you just leave that one at home.

You say to yourself, “Hey, it’s only an exercise, and it’s not like I’m going to need all this stuff right now.”

But while I too am guilty, I quickly learned you’re selling yourself short. Ask anyone who’s recently deployed to the war zone, and they’ll tell you, “Play like it’s real, because it IS real over there—the Alarm Reds, the mortar attacks, the need

to take cover, the bugs and rodents,” and so on.

As the saying goes, we train like we fight, and that’s what these exercises are all about. If you don’t train yourself to pack everything you need, then when the time comes to ‘lug all that stuff around,’ you won’t have disciplined yourself enough to be fully prepared. Sure there’s some artificiality in every exercise, but with no sign of the Global War on Terror easing up anytime soon, my bet would be that nearly every single unformed member will deploy to a war zone during his or her career—some more than once.

The war is not being fought by the Army or Marines alone. Thousands of Air Force personnel (many in support functions) are on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan, facing the same threats and dangers our fellow Soldiers and Marines are facing.

So the next time you’re packing your bags for a local exercise, realize that ‘lugging all that stuff around’ is a wartime necessity and may one day be the stuff that saves your life.

Humanitarian effort shows America at its best

COL. MICHAEL BOERA
374th Air Expeditionary Wing vice commander

UTAPAO, Thailand (AFP) — At various times throughout my 23 years in the U.S. Air Force, I have taken the opportunity to write articles for my hometown newspaper in Vermont for my family and friends to read and for home base newspapers where I’ve been assigned.

Today, I write you from Royal Thai Naval Air Station Utapao here where I am deployed in support of Operation Unified Assistance, the humanitarian relief mission in support of the tsunami victims in Thailand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

I have made a livelihood of flying F-16 Fighting Falcon combat aircraft and am currently assigned as the 35th Operations Group commander at Misawa Air Base, Japan. A couple of weeks ago, I was preparing to fly a local combat training mission when I received a call from my boss. I was basically told to get some shots and pack my bags because I was being sent to Thailand to help stand up the 374th Air Expeditionary Wing. About 24 hours later, I was landing at Utapao Airfield.

The mission of the wing is to provide support to the intra-theater airlift units, mostly flying C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster III

aircraft and HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters, sprinkled around workable airfields in the affected countries. We are the Air Force piece of Combined Support Force 536, commanded by a U.S. Marine lieutenant general. I have never been involved in a humanitarian relief effort and now I am involved in one rivaling that of any relief effort ever!

It has been my honor to serve in such an operation. As much as I miss being away from my family and flying the F-16, it gives me great satisfaction to be involved in a relief and recovery operation versus the typical combat operation I am so familiar with, and which usually involves some sort of destruction. This is America at its best!

It is also the America that doesn’t make the headlines very often, or the lead story on our top TV news stations’ telecasts. In fact, this relief operation is probably not the lead story in the United States any longer.

Please keep in mind, the mission continues...

Gradually, we will let civilian governmental and non-governmental organizations take over the bulk of the effort and most of us will return to our home stations.

Until then, I am proud to be a part of this relief mission. It is America at its best!

Action Line

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

Action Line calls are recorded and staffed through the proper agency.

The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers.

If you’re not satisfied with the response or you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For fraud, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the 325th Fighter Wing Inspector General’s Office, 283-4646.

Calls concerning energy abuse should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.



BRIG. GEN. JACK EGGINTON
325th Fighter Wing commander

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 325th Fighter Wing public affairs office. Photographs are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise noted.

The deadline for article submissions to the *Gulf Defender* is 4 p.m. Friday, prior to the week of publication unless otherwise noted. Articles must be typed and double-spaced, preferably on a 3.5-inch disc. Stories should be submitted directly to the public affairs office, Building 662, Room 129 or mailed to: 325 FW/PAI, 445 Suwannee Ave., Tyndall AFB, FL, 32403-5425 or e-mailed to editor@tyndall.af.mil. Public affairs staff members edit all material for accuracy, brevity, clarity, conformity to regulations and journalistic style. The delivery of the *Gulf Defender* to Tyndall base housing sections is provided by the *Panama City News Herald*.

For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.

Recruiting duty open to junior Airmen

2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Air Force officials recently began accepting applications to fill Air Force recruiting positions in a move to possibly reach out more effectively to potential young recruits.

The new program, targeting airmen first class, places younger Air Force advocates with the ranks of more experienced recruiters, ranging from senior airmen to technical sergeants.

In a career field where only the best survive, people may wonder if an airman first class has enough experience or is ready to handle the less-structured, “be your own boss” atmosphere. But Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Kahapea, 325th Fighter Wing career assistance advisor, believes any rank can fill the position as long as they have the maturity, determination and drive.

“Airmen first class provide a new and young perspective to the recruiter field,” he said. “They’re new to the Air Force and can probably relate better to potential recruits than a seasoned veteran. These young Airmen can relate their life experiences, prior jobs and future plans to new recruits in a language that this new generation can understand.”

Recruiting is an important Air Force program to ensure the service is postured to meet any future challenges by supplying the people required to operate its multi-million dollar resources and equipment. The special duty assignment provides a three-year break from the recruiter’s primary job, and provides Airmen with breadth of experience to add to their growing number of skills, Sergeant Kahapea said.

“The training that recruiters go through is considered to be the top sales training course in the world, and recruiters are sought after by major civilian companies for their skills.”

According to Staff Sgt. Kevin Kitchell, a Panama City recruiter, the position resembles owning your own business.

“The Airmen will be given more responsibility than they could ever imagine, and I think it will be awesome for their career.”

STAFF SGT. KEVIN KITCHELL
Panama City Air Force recruiter

“You are your own boss and can do whatever you want, within reason,” he said. “Recruiters have a lot of freedoms and free use of Air Force issued laptops, cell phones, and a government owned vehicle. The training gives you all the tools you need, and it’s up to you to be as successful as you want to be.”

The inclusion of airmen first class within the recruiting career field may benefit the Airmen as much as, if not more than, the Air Force, Sergeant Kitchell continued.

“As long as the Airmen know what the Air Force has to offer so they can effectively go out and sell the service, I think it’s a great idea. They are given more responsibility than they could ever imagine, and I think it will be awesome for their career.”

One Tyndall member interested in the program is Airman 1st Class Esmeralda Ponce, 325th Air Control Squadron weapons simulation technician, and she planned to begin the application process this week.

“The first time I stepped into my recruiter’s office, I knew I wanted to be one someday,” she said. “I may not have as much Air Force experience as someone who’s been enlisted for years, but I feel I can motivate others to join. I think young people will feel more comfortable with recruiters of a similar age, and now they’ll have their chance with this program.”

For more information about recruiting, contact www.afrecruiting.com, Sergeant Kahapea at 283-2222 or Sergeant Kitchell at 763-1301.

Receipts mandatory for filing DTS voucher

1ST LT. ALBERT BOSCO
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Tyndall members who travel will no longer be reimbursed if they don’t fax their travel receipts when filing a Defense Travel System voucher.

According to an Air Education and Training Command directive released earlier this month, all Tyndall travelers must now attach receipts to their DTS trip records when filing travel vouchers or face nonpayment.

Prior to AETC’s directive, travelers here had a couple of options. DTS allowed travelers to either fax or scan their receipts into the system, or approving officials store them electronically per DOD Financial Management regulation Volume 9, Chapter 2.

According to Ronda Shinsky, 325th Comptroller Squadron travel voucher examiner, that way of completing vouchers presented several problems here making the move to the

new system necessary.

“Although travelers could print a fax cover sheet with a bar code specific to their voucher and were provided toll-free fax number to send their receipts, many people weren’t sending them in,” she said. “Also, it is cumbersome for approving officials to keep files with receipts in the office where the approving took place.”

Now, travelers must send in all lodging, rental car, airline ticket receipts and any receipt for a claim of more than \$75, to get reimbursed.

Additionally, approving officials are reminded they shouldn’t approve a voucher that doesn’t have the receipts uploaded, and they should view each receipt for completeness and clarity.

If travelers experience problems or have questions with this procedure they can call the DTS Help Desk at 283-4201.

ON THE STREET

How do you feel base exercises benefit military readiness?



“Practice makes perfect.”

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MATTHEW ADAMITIS
325th Security Forces Squadron



“Our exercises teach us what our number one job is, which is to be able to respond to any contingency.”

SENIOR MASTER SGT. JEFFERY KAHAPEA
325th Fighter Wing career assistance advisor



“It gives us the ability to exercise functions and procedures that would be required in a contingency or deployed situation that are not part of day to day operations in peacetime.”

MASTER SGT. FRANK LABROAD
325th Fighter Wing exercise and plans office



“When you do the exercises repeatedly the information is instilled in your head so that it becomes second nature.”

TECH. SGT. CLYDE ROLFE
Base Legal Office

**Congratulations medical support
and nursing corps major, lieutenant
colonel and colonel selects!**

Major

*Steven Howell,
325th Medical Support Squadron
Gerald LaChance,
325th Medical Operations Squadron
Monica Lovasz,
325th Medical Operations Squadron*

Lieutenant Colonel

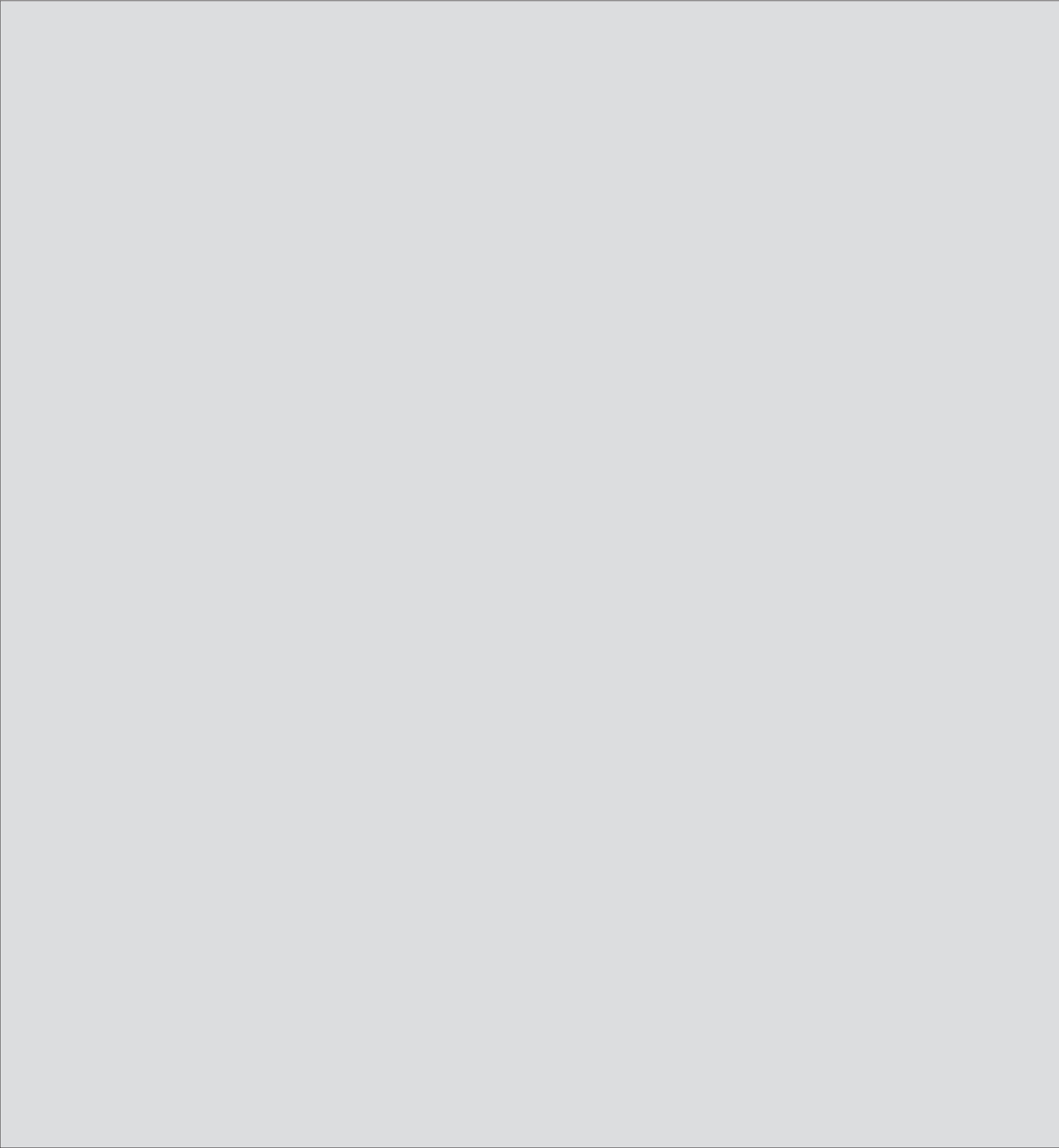
*Robert Nidea,
325th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron*

Colonel

*Paula Corrigan,
325th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron*



***The Gulf Defender is
published for people
like Airman Branden
Belush, 325th
Comptroller Squad-
ron customer ser-
vice technician.***



Checkertail Salute

Tech. Sgt. Brian Denny



Steve Wallace

Sergeant Denny receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Col. Brian Dickerson, 325th Fighter Wing vice commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Sergeant Denny, who manages the Berg-Liles Dining Facility. He directs production of more than 500 daily meals and is responsible for a \$500,000 equipment account. He also organized the outdoor Airman Appreciation Barbecue, a Tyndall first. He is the unit anti-terrorism monitor, and led 43 military members in contingency operations during Tropical Storm Bonnie. He is also pursuing an education in his career field and volunteers in the local community.

Duty title: Dining Facility assistant manager
Time on station: One year, two months
Time in service: Ten years, two months
Hometown: Tampa, Fla.
Hobbies: Sports and music
Goals: Make master sergeant the first time and finish associate's degree
Favorite book: "Intensity," by Dean R. Koontz
Favorite movie: Carlito's Way
Favorite thing about Tyndall: The weather and being close to family
Pet peeves: Individuals without goals, focus or purpose in life
Proudest moment in the military: Getting a flight in the F-15 Eagle

The Checkertail Salute is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize Tyndall's Warrior of the Week. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate, letter from the commander and a one-day pass.

Tyndall Airman runs marathon to save son's life

2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Florida pavement felt the pounding of two dedicated feet during an annual 26.2-mile marathon held in Orlando Jan. 9.

Staff Sgt. Michael Olson, 1st Fighter Squadron Life Support survival specialist, joined the crowd of 24,000 runners, who were each running with their own inspiration, but few as emotional as his.

Sergeant Olson ran with a team of 19 civilians to help fund the research of neurofibromatosis, a rare genetic disorder affecting his 2-year-old son.

According to the National Organization for Rare Disorders

Web site, neurofibromatosis, or NF, is characterized by the development of multiple non-cancerous tumors and areas of abnormal skin coloration.

Affected individuals may have relatively large benign tumors that consist of bundles of nerves. Such abnormalities are often evident by one year of age and tend to increase in size and number over time.

"He had it since birth but doctors didn't discover it until he was about 1-year-old," said Sergeant Olson.

Doctors often choose not to remove a tumor unless it interferes with a person's sight or if it poses a threat to his life be-

cause it removes the nerves and the sense of feeling in that spot, he continued.

"He's already had one bump on his body removed, but he'll lose the sense of feeling if too much is removed. He now has 12 spots on his spinal cord," he said.

Searching the Internet one day for NF support groups, Sergeant Olson discovered a Web site advertising the Orlando marathon. Participants could join teams or run individually to raise money for various cancer or disorder research. He knew this was his answer.

"This was the first marathon I ever ran, but I figured it would

benefit the research, the good of my son and it might be fun. I gave it a shot," he said.

Sergeant Olson discovered the Web site less than four months before the marathon. He began training by running 3 to 5 miles a day and progressed up to 7 to 10 miles a day, eventually running 50 to 60 miles per week.

"Work was excellent," Sergeant Olson said. "I took extended two-hour lunches everyday

●SEE RUN PAGE 17



Graphic illustration by 2nd Lt. William Powell

Staff Sgt. Michael Olson, 1st Fighter Squadron, holds his son, Ryan, after running a 26.2 mile marathon which raised money for neurofibromatosis research.

Base Library provides access to a world of knowledge

STEVE RIDDLE

325th Service Squadron publicist

New technology and networking capabilities help the Tyndall Library literally put a million books, hundreds of specialized research data bases, or a college degree just a few keystrokes away.

In addition to this modern array of resources, the library also features traditional ones, such as books and magazine racks.

But what really catapults the library into the 21st century is the computer lab. Along with the 26 computers, all with Internet hookup, are two Internet lines for laptop computers. Users can surf the Web, check e-mail, and use the printer and scanner, all for free. According to Tyndall Library director Jim Clark, a number of people already take advantage of these services.

"We have anywhere between 300 and 400 people using our computer lab every day," he stated. "Last year, our lab was used more than 37,000 times."

Mr. Clark said while some people are on the computers for entertainment purposes, many are trying to further their education – something they can easily do at the base library.

"We support the education program here on base," Mr. Clark said. "We can look up a college's reading list for a person, and then buy those books for the person to use."

The base library is also networked with

Gulf Coast Community College, Troy State University, and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, giving its users access to those schools' databases, along with many others.

"Our customers have access to literally hundreds of specialty research data bases online," Mr. Clark stated. "It's great for the high school or college student, but even if someone is working on a Ph.D., we can help them. We also have all these materials in paper copy, CD and DVD formats. If people realized how much we can help them with their schoolwork, they'd be lined up out the door."

Another service offered to help the education-minded customer is proctoring college course examinations. Mr. Clark said that in this age of online education, proctoring tests is a valuable service to provide.

"If someone is taking a distance-learning test, we will monitor the person taking the test, and then send the test results back to the institution," he explained. "Once the results are graded, that person is then credited with completing the course. We do about five or six of these a week."

The library also has a new system in place that allows people to take practice tests for many college level, college entrance, or high school tests – all from their home computers.

"They can take College Level Examination Program tests, the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, college entrance level courses like the SAT or ACT, or even a high school GED test," he said.

Along with being connected to several of the local colleges, the facility is also a member of a consortium of more than 50 public libraries, giving customers access to a staggering number of books.

"If we don't have a book a customer wants, then they can get on a computer and click an icon, say for the Bay County Library, and it takes them to that Web site," Mr. Clark said. "With this system, they have access to more than a million books."

With access to so many titles, it seems as though library customers could have enough to read for years to come, but a big problem the library faces, according to Mr. Clark, is the need to continuously provide new information. An amazing



Steve Riddle

Karen Sugg, a volunteer at the Tyndall Library, reads to preschoolers Elena Traver and Isaac Minkler Jan. 12 in the Children's Reading Room. Children from the base can meet at the library every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. to hear their favorite stories.

amount of books and other materials are delivered to the library regularly to support these needs.

"The base library has to have new materials coming in all the time," he explained. "We get all the best sellers, at least 75 different titles each month just on the book lease program. We also have books on tape, and we get about 50 new titles a month. There are also books on CDs that are great if you're taking a long trip somewhere."

Mr. Clark also said there are plenty of DVD and VHS movies to check out – all free.

"We have 900 DVDs and about 1,700 VHS movies," Mr. Clark said. "They're new titles and old classics, and we have a big collection of children's movies too."

And there is more than just movies for the kids at the library. Along with a wide variety of programs to help keep children reading, the library is partnered with 19 different Bay County schools in the Accelerated Reader Program.

"In the Accelerated Reader Program, the books are designated with reading levels and points," he said. "After reading a book, the child gets tested on it and if they pass, they earn points and get credit for reading that book. It helps parents to keep their children at a good reading level."

The library also has a summer reading program for children and teens that Mr. Clark said usually has about 60 children participate. He also said they all look forward to the big pizza party at the end of each program.

A weekly reading program gives elementary school-age children a chance to be recognized as the "Reader of the Week" and preschool story hour every Wednesday morning gives toddlers a chance to hear their favorite stories while they color or do other crafts.

But even with all that goes on at the library, the staff is always looking for ways to improve or expand the services they offer. One improvement that should be up and running by early spring will actually give customers the chance to see what is on the library's shelves from the comfort of their own home.

"We're going to have an online system where, from your own computer at home, you have online access to our card catalog system," Mr. Clark explained. "You get on our Web site, and you'll be able to see if we have the book you want, and if we have it, you can reserve it. This will be available in March."

The Tyndall Base Library is open every day except Monday. For more information, call 283-4287.



Steve Riddle

Bob Watson, a senior library technician, checks a new shipment of books against the delivery list. The library regularly gets shipments of new books, magazines, periodicals, audio tapes, CDs, DVDs and educational materials.

ACS schoolhouse puts eyes in skies for Air Force

2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

When it comes to flying, the best way to keep pilots safe is to keep their aircraft apart. But it is the job of one dedicated group of Air Force professionals to do the opposite.

Air battle managers keep pilots informed of which aircraft may be hostile in the area, potentially relaying the approval to eliminate a target.

"This job carries a lot of responsibility," said Capt. Eric Lopez, 325th Air Control Squadron instructor. "You may have to be the one interpreting the rules of engagement and deciding who's hostile by their actions or inactions."

Air battle managers begin their training for this responsibility here. The 325th ACS graduates approximately 200 students each year from the nine month program, which includes instruction on different formations and exercises, capabilities of various fighter aircraft, the different air-to-air and air-to-ground armaments available for use, as well as the various threats to the jets.

Initially, the students learn about the different types of radar and how they work. Next, they learn how to

direct two planes to meet head-on, side by side and procedures to guide jets to a tanker for safe air refueling operations. The students then take eight flights in the MU-2 twin-engine turboprop plane to get the pilot's perspective of the air battle manager/pilot communication link.

"The students fly on the MU-2 so they can understand what the pilot hears when the student is talking on the radio," Captain Lopez said. "Students sometimes think that when they say something on the radio, the pilot should just know what they are talking about."

Back on the ground, students controlling the MU-2 get the feel of "live control" but on a much slower scale. The dots on the radar scope move much slower compared to an F-15 Eagle, so a student has more time to correct an error.

After successfully passing the MU-2 course, the students enter the large force exercise block, which mimics a war. They interact as an E-3 Sentry Airborne Warning and Control System crew, where they apply rules of engagement, controlling aircraft and the computers and Air Force doctrine.

"The first part of LFE is simula-

tor academics to prepare them for the mock war. Afterward, they actually sit in the console to do a mission," Captain Lopez said. "They bring it all together and execute an air tasking order, which is pretty much a listing of all assets that fly in a war."

The final phase of their training involves controlling the F-15s. By now, the students have completed 112 of their 160 training days. In this phase, students begin with 1 vs. 1 intercepts, and gradually work up to 2 vs. 2 engagements.

"We're here to support the pilots and tell them what they don't see," Captain Lopez said. "The pilots are doing a thousand things at once inside the airplane as well as trying to see what's going on outside. It's our job to look behind and on the side of them and filter information they need from all the radios that we listen to."

Following a training flight, the B-course pilot and air battle manager students debrief to exchange information and learn how to communicate more effectively with each other.

"If the pilots do something wrong, they own up to it, and if we do some-



Senior Airman Benjamin Rojek

Second Lieutenants Joel Doss and Antony Braun, 325th Air Control Squadron air battle manager students, use the skills they learned in the classroom during an Airborne Warning and Control System modeling system exercise.

thing wrong, we do the same," he said. "Sometimes you have to realize whose mistake contributed to the overall effectiveness of the ride to learn from it. It's also a time to reiterate to the student pilots that we can't just give them information at any point in time. Our radar and radios can only do certain things."

"My class hasn't made it that far in the program, yet," said 2nd Lt. Mara Roedder, a 325th ACS student. "But I've heard the debrief is a good exchange of information between the two career fields."

Lieutenant Roedder is more than half way through the program and has recently entered block five, the final phase. She said she chose this career path for the challenge.

"Most people find this job very demanding, and some even drop out before completing the training, but I wanted a job that would challenge my abilities. It is intimidating to control real aircraft instead of dots on the simulator, but that's why we are given that responsibility. We have a mission to do."

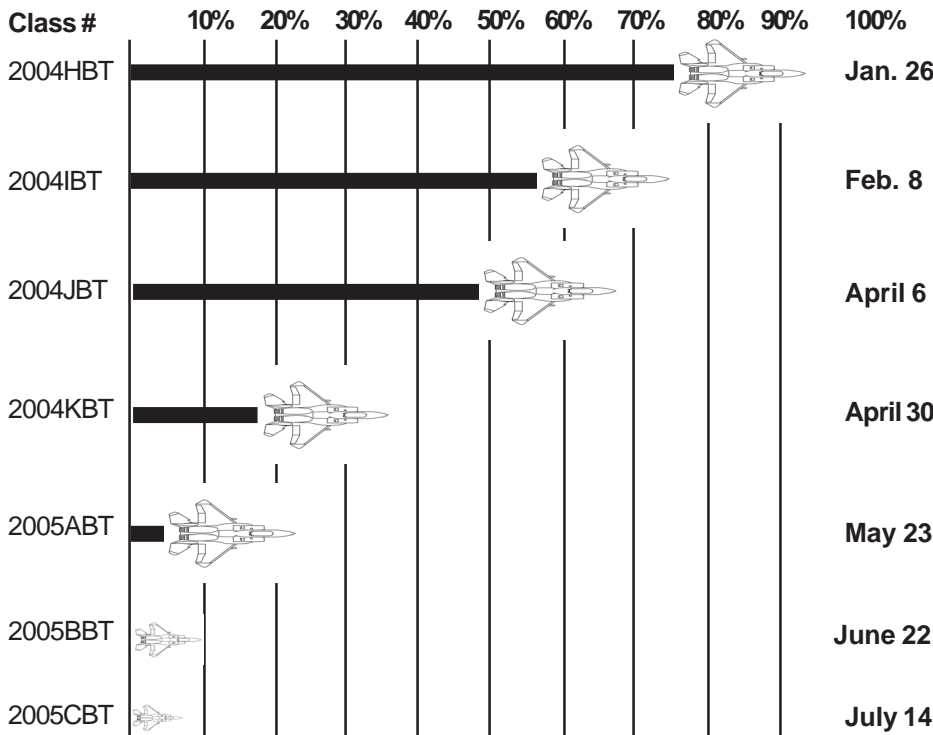


1st Lt. Albert Bosco

Reading the way

Technical Sergeant John Niziol, an F-15 Eagle Mission Ready Airmen course instructor, reviews technical orders for performing post-flight inspections with Airman 1st Class Jonathan Greene, an MRA student, during an inspection certification. Airman Greene is in his second week of the four week course.

F-15 Eagle B-Course progress chart



New radar system helps Tyndall's BASH



1st Lt. Albert Bosco

Senior Airman Eloris Hall, 325th Operations Support Squadron Airfield Management Operations supervisor, demonstrates firing a starter-type pistol armed with a bird dispersal device. Such devices make noises designed to discourage birds from staying in the area, thus averting possible bird strikes to aircraft.

1ST LT. ALBERT BOSCO
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Tyndall-based F-15 Eagles and F/A-22 Raptors are designed to be superior to any airborne threat except one – birds.

Wildlife on and near Air Force installations pose a significant threat to flying operations, but through a robust Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard program and the incorporation of new technology, the service is striving to mitigate the risk.

According to the Air Force Aviation Safety Division Web site, 1,293 bird strike incidents occurred Air Force-wide in 2004, resulting in damages exceeding \$45 million.

Although a variety of measures are employed with success on a daily basis, bird strikes still occur. In 2003 Tyndall F-15s suffered 40 strikes resulting in more than \$1 million in damage.

In one incident, one of the aircraft's engines ingested a dove causing significant engine compressor damage. In 2004, the base recorded 11 strikes. One involved a black vulture that caused about \$33,000 in structural damage to an F-15 flying 600 feet above the ground at a speed of 390 knots.

Since October began, there have been five strikes, of which one resulted in a cost of more than \$1 million for repairs to an F-15 engine that ingested a catbird.

To help reduce the number and cost of strikes to Tyndall aircraft, the base sought additional measures and embraced new technology to supplement its program and further eliminate the possibility of incidents.

A new radar system, called the Bird Aircraft Collision Avoidance Radar System, is scheduled to join Tyndall's arsenal in February. The system, similar to one already in use by the Air Force at the Dare County Bombing Range in North Carolina, will provide valuable bird tracking information so the airfield management team can use appropriate dispersal measures in the right areas.

"It's a radar system that uses two radars to track birds," said Ron Merritt, president of DeTect Inc., the Panama City-based company that manufactures the system. "It has two antennas, one tracking horizontally and the other vertically. It will provide data on bird concentrations around Tyndall, which will help airfield management folks identify specific locations to target other bird avoidance measures."

Additionally, Mr. Merritt said the system will help personnel to plan and schedule flights to avoid times and areas that bird populations may be present and active.

In the future, the system could be upgraded to provide real-time information to the control tower, where air traffic controllers can warn pilots of the presence of birds, and eventually, the system can be linked directly to the cockpit so the pilot can see potential hazard areas for himself, he said.

While the system will provide a leap forward in airfield management operations, the base still relies on current, less-technological measures for wild-

"Everyone on Tyndall helps to lessen the risk of reporting bird and wildlife strikes that could potentially be hazardous to operations."

MASTER SGT. MICHAEL
325th Fighter Wing Flight Safety
Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard



In 2004, a 95th Fighter Squadron F-15 Eagle sustained damage to the fuselage near the jet's 20 mm cannon after the aircraft struck a black vulture at a speed of about 390 knots. It cost more than \$30,000 to repair the damage.



Courtesy photo

program spread its wings

ndall can
sk by re-
wildlife
ld poten-
to flight

EL SIMONS
ety NCO and
azard manager

life control.

According to Master Sgt. Michael Simons, 325th Fighter Wing Flight Safety NCO and Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard manager, the base currently employs active measures, such as

se of pyrotechnics, bioacoustics broadcasting wildlife distress to discourage wildlife's presence the flightline.

added Airfield Management Operations continually inspect the airfield rds and wildlife and conduct dis- ls when necessary.

rds on and near the ground re- l quickly to pyrotechnics and will ly depart the area," he said. etimes they stay away, but some- s they return after a period of "

added the base also uses pas- measures such as maintaining height near the runways to con- wildlife near the Tyndall flightline. maintaining the airfield to make it ractive to wildlife is the primary s of reducing bird and wildlife es on and near the airfield," he "This includes keeping the grass o between seven and 14 inches, ing standing water, keeping ca- ides clear and steep, as well as ng bare areas."

ile current measures are still idered successful, Sergeant ns said people are an important of the puzzle when limiting the osed by wildlife.

everyone on Tyndall can help to n the risk by reporting bird and ife populations that could poten- be hazardous to flight opera-," he said.

ple should also refrain from en- ging birds to congregate by not ng them, he said.

e've all seen how quickly sea flock when presented with food. can imagine how our birdstrike tial would increase if we were ow this to happen on or near the line."



Courtesy photo

The Bird-Aircraft Collision Avoidance Radar System, manufactured by DeTect Inc., is a two-radar system that scans the airfield for birds and provides airfield operations members data on concentrations of wildlife. Tyndall is scheduled to receive a similar unit sometime in February.



Courtesy photo

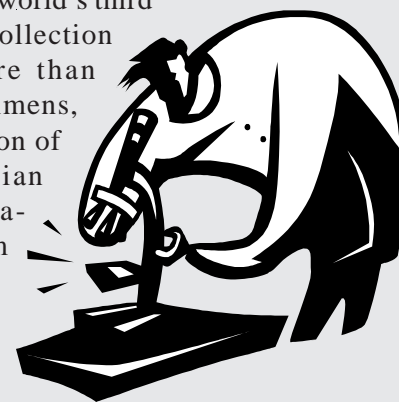
A 2003 bird strike involving a mourning dove and a 1st Fighter Squadron F-15 Eagle caused about \$1.1 million in damage to the plane's engine. The bird was ingested and damaged the engine's fan and compressor blades.

BASH meets forensics

1ST LT. ALBERT BOSCO

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Home to the world's third largest bird collection boasting more than 600,000 specimens, the bird division of the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of Natural History is more than a mere collection point for all things



things

Scientists and researchers eagerly assist the Air Force in identifying bird remains following bird/aircraft strike incidents.

According to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Web site, the bird division's feather lab is the world's only full-time facility dedicated to identifying bird species based on feather remains.

Air Force aircraft maintainers collect remains following a bird strike and feather or blood smear samples are sent to the feather lab for identification.

Processing more than 1,200 cases for the military each year, the feather lab has the United States' second largest collection of bird species. Ornithologists refer to the museum's bird specimens when matching remains, but in the event remains aren't readily identifiable, researchers can use microscopes to identify the unique characteristics of the smallest structures of a species' feathers, which is extremely helpful when identifying certain types of birds.

Additional means of identifying bird species include the use of genetics, where scientists match a specimen's DNA against a database.

Ironically, this amazingly technological and complex service is provided to the military free of charge, and results are typically returned within 48 hours.

"By identifying the bird type we can determine if there are ways to make the airfield less attractive to that species," said Master Sgt. Michael Simons, 325th Fighter Wing NCO in-charge of safety. "We can also perform a trend analysis for the species and possibly modify our flying operations to lessen the risk."



Briefs

Manpower career field open

The Air Force Manpower and Organization career field is seeking qualified enlisted personnel, in the pay grades of E-4 and E-5, to retrain into the Manpower career field. For more information or for a personal interview, contact Tech. Sgt. Robert Stegemeyer at 283-8277.

Step Up Florida

The statewide relay to focus on physical activity, Step Up Florida will be Feb. 8. Volunteers will participate in the relay by tracking mileage doing their favorite activity, be it jogging, skating, biking, canoeing, jumping rope. For specific information, or to sign up, contact Julia Ruschmann at 872-4455 ext. 1369.

Base Legal closure

The Base Legal Office will be closed today, Monday and Tuesday. During this closure, claims and notary assistance will operate as normal. However, the legal team will only be able to offer emergency legal assistance. For immediate assistance, call 283-4681.

Babyless baby shower

The Enlisted Spouses' Club will be having a Babyless Baby Shower event 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the Community Center ballroom. The event is held to gather donations for the Airman's Attic, and features all the food, games and prizes of a baby shower. All items should be unwrapped. RSVP by contacting Amie Leo at 286-2285 or Mindy Keiffer at 286-8595.

OSC art auction

Tyndall Officers' Spouses' Club announces the Spring Fund Raiser: An evening of Art and Wine tasting Feb. 11, at the Officers' Club. This art auction will feature a comprehensive selection of elegantly framed art from a variety of classic and contemporary artists. There will be appetizers and wine tasting.

The art preview and wine tasting will be at 6 p.m., and the auction begins at 7 p.m. OSC can earn more money simply based on the number of people in attendance at 8 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Heart Link session

The quarterly Heart Link session will be 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Feb. 25 at the Enlisted Club Classics lounge.

Heart Link is a fun-filled, fast-paced information-packed orientation for spouses affiliated with the Air Force for five years or less.

Spouses of permanent party members or students are invited to attend this free program. Spouses with more than five years can benefit from Heart Link and are invited to attend on a space available basis. For more information, call the Family Support Center at 283-4204/4205.

Guam tour length change

The assistant secretary of defense approved a tour length change for Guam effective immediately. Guam's new tour length has been extended to 36 months accompanied and 24 months unaccompanied. However, the Air Force received authorization to delay implementation of the new tour length until Jan. 1, 2006 due to infrastructure limitations. Effective Jan. 1, 2006, Guam assignments will be considered a long tour. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Jerome Jackson at 283-8368.

RAO position open

The Retiree Activities Office has a director position open. The RAO director writes for the base paper, puts a newsletter together and attends retiree council conferences. To apply, call 283-2737 from 9 a.m. to noon Monday - Friday.

Tyndall announces 2005 open house

The 2005 Gulf Coast Salute open house and air show, "A Salute to North America," takes place here May 14-15. The Canadian Snowbirds, an internationally renowned nine-jet aerial demonstration team, will be the featured highlight, along with the U.S. Army's Golden Knights parachute jump team. Many other military and civilian aerial and ground demos and displays will be showcased. Periodically, the *Gulf Defender* and Commander's Access Channel will provide further updates and announcements about this event. Questions about the open house can be e-mailed to: PAcontacts@tyndall.af.mil.

The Air Force Virtual Ed Center

The Air Force Virtual Education Center, at afvec.langley.af.mil, provides information about educational information and benefits. The purpose of this site is to provide students one-stop-shopping for all higher education needs. AFVEC offers a wide array of on-line services to empower students to actively participate in all aspects of their education. This service offers CLEP testing, information on Community College of the Air Force degree, application procedures for commissioning and testing for PME completion.



2nd Lt. William Powell

Spare tires ...

Airman 1st Class Jason Moore, left, and Senior Airman Matthew Hoefing, both 325th Communications Squadron radar maintenance technicians struggle to free a tire from Tyndall Beach during the annual beach cleanup Saturday here. More than 275 volunteers removed litter and uncovered hundreds of tires and 7,000 pounds of debris that had washed ashore since last year.

OSC scholarship

Tyndall Officers' Spouses Club college scholarship applications are now available for qualified college-bound high school seniors and military spouses. Applications can be picked up at high school guidance counselors office or at the Tyndall Education Center. Deadline for application return is noon Feb. 25. For more information, call 286-1447.

CE closure

Civil Engineer customer service personnel will provide Facility Managers' Annual Refresher training (makeup sessions) 8-11 a.m. or 1-3 p.m., Tuesday, at the NCO Academy Auditorium, Bldg. 837. This is mandatory training for all facility managers who have not attended this yearly training.

Men's varsity softball team

Those interested in trying out for the Tyndall AFB Men's Varsity Softball Team need to attend the meeting at 3 p.m. today in the main lounge of the community activities center. Those who cannot attend, but are interested in trying out, contact Eric North at 283-2054 or e-mail eric.north@tyndall.af.mil.

325th OSS change of command

Lieutenant Colonel Steven Schneider will relinquish command to Lt. Col. James Richter at 3:25 p.m. today in front of the air control tower. In case of inclement weather, re-

port to the 43rd Fighter Squadron hangar. For more information, contact 2nd Lt. David Pratt at 283-2263.

Wood Manor housing project

The 325th Civil Engineer Squadron will begin replacing existing water mains in the Wood Manor Housing area from now until the summer season. A letter identifying the times of periodic water outages will be placed on resident's doors prior to any known impact. This project will tentatively complete all utility replacement in Wood Manor Housing. For more information, call Huey Moore at 283-4206.

Chapel Schedule

Catholic services

Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m. Monday-Friday (Chapel 2)

Reconciliation (before Saturday Mass or by appointment)

Saturday Mass, 5 p.m. (Chapel 2)

Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m. (Chapel 2)

Religious Education, 11 a.m. (Bldg. 1476)

Protestant Sunday services

Communion service, 9:30 a.m. (Chapel 1)

Religious education classes, 9:30-10:30 a.m. (Bldg. 1476)

General Protestant service, 11 a.m. (Chapel 2)

Sunday Night Live Service, 6 p.m. (Chapel 1)

'Fourth Watch' opens eyes, ears at Tyndall Chapel

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS SARAH McDOWELL

325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

As part of their new "Sunday Night Live" ministry, the chapel will feature a contemporary Christian band at 6 p.m. Jan. 30 in Chapel 2.

The band, called Fourth Watch, features two Tyndall members, Master Sgt. James Scroggs and Tech. Sgt. Patrick Tarin, who believe their music has more to it than just good sound.

"Our music is mostly entertainment, but we also try to make a positive impact on people's lives through our songs," said Sergeant Tarin, 325th Maintenance Operation Squadron wing analyst and bass player in the band. "We are serious about our music, but we have fun doing it."

And, the seriousness about hope is what separates this rock band from most playing on the radio.

"Our music conveys a message that there is still hope in a troubled world," Sergeant Tarin said. "I hope it positively impacts anyone who comes to see us."

This positive message comes from the background culture of the band and its members.

"The name was taken from Matthew 14:25 in the Bible, where it says, 'Jesus came in the fourth watch,'" said Sergeant Scroggs.

The band, which has been together since August 2003, has played about 15 venues, spanning local churches to the Panama City Marina Civic Center. The other two members are Alan Blackburn, on lead vocals, and Chip Chester, on lead guitar.

The chapel believes the contemporary sound of Fourth Watch will bring people together to fellowship and learn what SNL is all about and will give the band a chance to play in front of their peers, said Chap. (Capt.) Randy Kitchens, Senior Protestant chaplain.

The show will be a part of the Sunday Night Live program that started as a small core group the last Sunday in October in Chapel one.

"This is a fairly new program that is a contemporary worship experience with a live band, music and videos," said Chuck White, Protestant Parish coordinator. "This concert will be good for the young and the young at heart because we also have some retirees that attend these services."

Mr. White says the reason they booked the band was because it is well known and, "they are a really good contemporary band who write a lot of their own songs. They really rock!"



Tech Sgt. Patrick Tarin

Courtesy photos



Master Sgt. James Scroggs

Courtesy photos



Courtesy photos

Chip Chester, lead guitar, Alan Blackburn, lead vocals and guitar, Sergeant Tarin, bass, and Sergeant Scroggs, drums, perform during an outside venue. The music of Fourth Watch is played to spread God's word of Salvation and positively affect anyone who is willing to listen, said Sergeant Tarin.

Tyndall Tigers finish third during SEMAC/MLK tournament

The Tyndall Tigers Men's Varsity basketball team was denied its third consecutive championship but took third place in the Annual Southeastern Military Athletic Conference Men's Martin Luther King Jr. Basketball Tournament Saturday and Sunday.

In their first game versus the Naval Air Station Pensacola Flyers, the Tigers jumped out to an early lead and increased to a 12 point margin with a half time score of 39-27. In the second half, Tyndall's lead ballooned to more than 20 points, as the Tigers took a 83-61 victory.

Elvin Walker and Tommy Nixon tied for game scoring honors with 18 points each, followed by Tysen Pina with 17, and Rob Montgomery and Omar Johnson with 10 points each.

In their second game of the tournament, the Tigers faced the G's All Stars, a local team led by former University of Mississippi center Johnny Rogers.

The two squads battled back and forth throughout the game, and Tigers guard Tommy Nixon nailed a three-pointer with 13 seconds remaining to give Tyndall an 80-79 lead. However, the All Stars' Tony Johnson connected on a 30-foot desperation shot with four seconds

remaining to give the All Stars the game winning shot with a final score of 82-80.

Omar Johnson and Tommy Nixon led a balanced scoring attack as they both scored 15 points, followed by Tysen Pina with 12 points and Anthony Showers and Rob Montgomery with 11 points.

The Tigers defeated the Eglin Eagles and the Hurlburt Field Commandos in the next two games, leaving them to once again face the All Stars, with the winner advancing to play in the championship game against Keesler.

The Tigers trailed 35-26 at the half and took a four point lead with two minutes remaining in

the second half, but two turnovers and several missed free throws gave the Tigers their second loss to the All Stars with a final score of 72-68 and they were eliminated from the tourney.

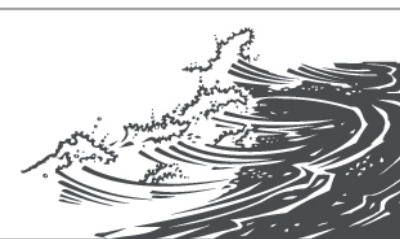
Elvin Walker led the Tigers in scoring with a game-high 34 points followed by Tysen Pina and Anthony Showers with 12 and 10 points respectively.

The Tigers will host the Commandos from Hurlburt Field, Saturday: women-2 p.m. and men-4 p.m. and Sunday: women-11 a.m. and men-1 p.m.

(Courtesy of the Tyndall Tigers.)



Funshine NEWS



January 21, 2005

www.325thservices.com



All Ranks at the Enlisted Club
**Dinner and
A Movie**
Thurs., Jan. 20

I ♥ Huckabees
Rated R

Oriental Buffet 5 - 7 p.m.
Movie 7 p.m.

Buffet style dinner: \$6.95

Member price: \$5.95

Non-Member Children: \$3.95

Children age 7 and under eat free.

Youth under age 16 must be accompanied
by an adult. Movies subject to availability.

283-4357

TYNDALL MARDI GRAS PARADE

FEB. 4 2005 4:20 P.M.

STAGING FROM THE MARINA CLUB

Pre-party parade:
4:20 p.m.
Wood Manor
Housing



Free Entry. Military organizations
(& private orgs) are eligible to
compete for cash prizes to be
used toward a unit party at the club.

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| 1ST PLACE FLOAT | \$300 |
| 2ND PLACE FLOAT | \$250 |
| 3RD PLACE FLOAT | \$150 |
| HONORABLE MENTION | \$50 |

**RIDE A BIKE - ENTER A WAGON -
DECORATE A CAR - KEEP IT SIMPLE**

OFFICERS' CLUB ALL RANKS

TYNDALL MARDI GRAS

FEB. 4, 2005 5 P.M.

MEMBERS \$12.95
NON-MEMBERS \$15.95

SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP AT THE DOOR AND
GET MEMBER PRICE AND BE ENTERED TO
WIN A NEW DVD PLAYER!

CAJUN BUFFET: RED BEANS & RICE,
GUMBO, JAMBALAYA, KING CAKE

LIVE MUSIC:
ZYDECOZOO BAND

CONTESTS, PRIZES,
FORTUNE TELLER

For Details Call
1Lt Stasny
283-3485

Tops In Blue

Marina Civic Center

Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets available Jan. 25th, 10 a.m.
at the Community Center Bldg. 1027

Seating limited, 4 tickets per person will be
given out. First Come, First Served Basis.

I.D. card is required, must be 18 yrs. of age.

Call 283-2495

Outdoor Recreation

☎ 283-3199

February 6-9 Swim with the Manatees

Cost per person \$245. Journey to Crystal
River, winter home of over 300 gentle
giants. Experience the underwater
sanctuary of a life form fast becoming
extinct. Cost includes 3 night's
accommodations, transportation, 2-day
boat rental, Bonita Bay wet suit (limited
sizes), mask/snorkel fin combo, dry bag,
admission to Homosassa Springs State
Wildlife Park and the Tampa State Fair
admission. A \$50 nonrefundable deposit
will guarantee your space. Trip must be
paid in full 7 days prior to departure. A
mandatory pre-trip meeting will be
scheduled.

ATTENTION! Information Tickets, and Travel

Is now located at the
Community Center

Tickets are available
Tue.-Fri.: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sat.: 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

ITT Can Supply You With:

Discount Movie Tickets

Regional Theme Park Tickets

for more information call:
2853-2499

Travel Agent on Duty:

Mon.-Fri.: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

The agent can provide
information and book
Airline Flights, Cruises &
Lodging

Call 283-2864

Youth Center

☎ 283-4366

Youth Center Baseball & Softball Registration

Open Until Feb. 14

All youth ages 5-14 may register. A birth
certificate, shot records, and a current
physical exam (not older than 1 year, as of 1
July, 04) due at time of registration. Skills
evaluation for new players ages 9-12 and
13-14 on Feb. 12. Practice begins Feb.-Mar.
and games begin Mar.-April.

Age Groups Cost

Coach Pitch.....5-6 yrs \$25

Machine Pitch.....7-8 yrs \$30

Minor Majors.....9-10 yrs \$35

Little Majors.....11-12 yrs \$40

Dizzy Dean.....13-14 yrs \$50

Girls Softball...10-12, 13-14 yrs \$40

Additional \$10 For non-members of Youth Center

Sports Page Pizza Pub at the CAC

Karaoke

Are you a singer,
musician,
comedian or poet?

Come out and join us!

Jan. 26, 5 to 9 p.m.

1/2 off all Appetizers

\$1.00 Beverage Specials

Call 283-3222

or 283-2495

for more information.



Super Bowl Feb. 6th at the Pizza Pub

Bldg. 1027 on Louisiana Ave.

Prizes include: 2 XBOX systems, T-shirts, coolers
and hats for Club Members!

For more information

283-3222 / 283-2814

Open at 1p.m - Game starts 5 p.m.
One large pizza and a pitcher \$8.50



FREESTYLE

Fighter Squadron proves ‘Boneheads’ are winners too

MASTER SGT. MARY McHALE
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Air Education and Training Command officials selected the 95th Fighter Squadron as AETC’s 2004 Top Operations Squadron.

Charged with “Training the world’s greatest Air Dominance fighter pilots for the combat air forces” according to Maj. John Schoeppner, 95th FS assistant director of operations, squadron members represent an array of specialties whose teamwork executes that mission daily.

“Pilots are by no means the only ones involved in our success,” Major Schoeppner said. “There’s intelligence, life support, and our administrators. A lot of the award package was dedicated to them and the good work they do.

Also, without the great maintenance and maintainers at Tyndall, the 95th FS would never have been competitive for this award. They do an outstanding job keeping the world’s greatest air superiority fighter flying day after day.”

And for that reason, the major hesitated

to attribute the award to any specific reason or event.

“It’s hard to say what put us over the top,” he said. “But it’s very rewarding because there are many other squadrons, especially the 1st and 2nd Fighter Squadrons here, that are absolute professionals, not to mention those at the command level. Receiving this award is both exciting and humbling.”

Accolades in the award package included operational initiatives such as night vision goggle instructor training, student night vision goggle training and being the first AETC F-15C squadron to field, employ and train students with Fighter Data Link. Data link helps war fighters maintain overall battle situational awareness by providing shared information directly to the cockpit. Major Schoeppner said these initiatives also added to the challenges instructors and students faced throughout the year.

“There are a lot of new changes to the F-15C – especially night vision goggles and data link capability. It’s a challenge to in-



Master Sgt. Mary McHale

First Lieutenant Elizabeth Young, a 95th Fighter Squadron F-15C student pilot, speaks with Staff Sgt. Chris Pollock, 95th Aircraft Maintenance Unit crew chief, prior to a training sortie Wednesday.

corporate those aspects into the basic training syllabus and ensure we do it safely with students who have never been in an F-15 before.”

In fact, he added perhaps the most significant aspect of the squadron’s program is a student’s transition overall – from students with zero time in a fighter to war fighting machines.

“It’s an impressive feat,” he said.

Students begin the course studying academics and experiencing the flight simulator. Then they learn to develop proficiency in basic emergency procedures and cockpit familiarization. From there, they learn to fly basic fighter maneuvers and employ

● SEE BONEHEADS PAGE 17



Airman 1st Class Sarah McDowell

A helping hand ...

Koleman Joy, son of Maj. Erik Joy, 1st Fighter Squadron instructor pilot, donates money to the Tsunami victims at the booth at the Base Exchange. The booth raised about \$1,400. People who would still like to donate money to the relief effort can contact their unit first sergeant or designated personnel, or call Tech. Sgt. Brian Hoppe at 283-2874. The campaign will end at close of business today.

AFAS grants money to AF dependent students

The official charity of the U.S. Air Force, the Air Force Aid Society, has now opened the application process for dependent education grants.

The grants are open to dependents of active duty Air Force members, Title 10 Active Guard Reserve on extended active duty, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty, retirees including retired reservist who have 20 or more qualifying years of service, and children and spouses who are residing stateside of deceased active duty and Title 10

AGR Air Force members.

“Don’t think you won’t qualify,” said Master Sgt. David Brett, 325th Mission Support Squadron Family Support Center assistant Chief and AFAS officer. “Tyndall had 60 percent of the applications that were submitted, approved, for the 2004-2005 season.”

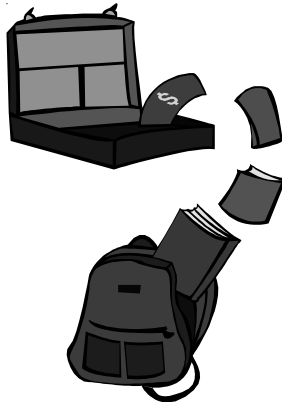
The rank of the sponsor of the applying dependents for these successes, ranged from E-3 to O-4.

The deadline is March 11.

For more information or to pick up an application, visit the AFAS at the Family Support Center, or visit

the Air Force Aid Society’s Web site at www.afas.org. For more information, contact Sergeant Brett at 283-4204.

(Courtesy of the Family Support Center.)



Get the news at www.af.mil

● **FROM RUN PAGE 7**
just to run, and it became my life. Without the 1st Fighter Squadron’s morale and financial support, I probably couldn’t have done this.”

His team of 20 raised nearly \$60,000 for the research, which is in addition to the funds raised by the team in other events.

“The NF team runs about 12-15 marathons a year. Each race raises about \$50,000 for the research,” he said.

In addition to benefiting the search for a cure, Sergeant Olson discovered a new interest in the process.

“I’m totally excited about running marathons now,” he said. “I didn’t think it would be, but it’s addictive. All the training and hard work paid off because now I can’t wait to

go out and do another one. It’s something I want to do for the rest of my life.”

Sergeant Olson completed the race in five hours and 15 minutes, which placed him in the top 37th percentile, but he said he’s more proud of finishing something that most people don’t even attempt.

“Only three to five percent of the population will run a marathon and only one or two percent will actually complete it,” he said. “I got a major flu the week before the race, and my knee locked up less than three miles from the finish line. I had to physically hobble over the finish line. The combination of the hard work and helping my son and the research made the finish very emotional. It was one of the best feelings in my life.”



● **FROM BONEHEADS PAGE 15**

tactically as a two-ship formation. Their training culminates in several sorties flying in a four ship formation against a number of adversaries.

In 2004, according to the award narrative, the squadron graduated 35 F-15 pilots and squadron members “expertly managed 11 syllabi, 3,975 student sorties, 1,181 simulator and 8,160 academic hours without error.”

The squadron was also selected to represent AETC during William Tell 2004, an air-to-air and weapons load competition that recently resumed after an eight-year hiatus.

The squadron’s resource manager, Master Sgt. Ricky Rivers, achieved command and Air Force-level recognition for his efforts as the squadron aviation resource manager.

The narrative recognized squadron members’ efforts in the base and local communities as well. Noting the “squadron is visibly involved in every sector of the community providing positive role models and leaders,” it described several members’ involvement in a variety of community activities – from coaching sports to teaching Sunday School to volunteering to deliver Meals on Wheels.

“We had a very busy year,” Major Schoeppner said. “And the things we did, we did very well.”

DOD official approves expanded use of flu vaccine

GERRY GILMORE
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — As part of national efforts to protect more people against the flu, the Defense Department’s top health official authorized the use of military flu vaccine previously held in reserve.

On Jan. 14, Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr. signed a memorandum directing the expanded use of stored flu vaccine for servicemembers and other eligible recipients such as family members and military retirees. This policy change allows the services to give flu shots to non-high risk persons, including active-duty, while continuing their aggressive efforts to get high-risk beneficiaries vaccinated.

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. About 36,000 Americans die from the flu each year. DOD now has about 500,000 doses of the vaccine in storage, mostly in the form of intranasal vaccine (Flumist), officials said.

A major provider of the injectable vaccine announced in October that its vaccine was defective. Thus, due to an expected shortage, DOD officials directed that only servicemembers being deployed overseas and other high risk persons should receive the flu vaccine. A relatively benign flu season thus far and sparse turnouts for vaccination by those at high risk to the flu seem to have mitigated the expected vaccine shortage.

DOD has now resumed mandatory total force flu vaccination “for servicemembers whose command has vaccine available to them.” Guidelines for high risk persons who receive priority for injectable vaccine have been expanded to include anyone over the age of 50, as well as children 6-23 months of age, pregnant women and those with chronic diseases.

The majority of active duty servicemembers will receive Flumist, which must be used before Feb. 8. This year’s flu season is expected to peak sometime in February, officials said. Vaccination against the flu “is the best way to protect yourself and your family from influenza,” said Dr. Julie Gerberding, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director. Dr. Gerberding said that “late-season vaccination is effective” against the flu. She urged unvaccinated people at risk to try once again to obtain immunization.

The 325th Medical Group has begun immunizing all active duty personnel with flu vaccine. Unvaccinated personnel may come to Immunizations clinic between 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. to receive the vaccine. In addition, 325th MDG personnel will be setting up a Flumist “shot line” Jan. 21 at Spiritual Maintenance, Bldg. 532 on the flightline side of the base, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For any questions, call Capt. Karen Kramer at 283-7138. *(The 325th Medical Group contributed to this article.)*



1st Lt. Albert Bosco

Free trees

Dann Childs, 325th Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Flight forester, shows a longleaf pine sapling to Tech. Sgt. Dan Neely, 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs. Up to 10 saplings of various types of trees are available free from Natural Resources while supplies last. The saplings are being offered to Tyndall members on and off base in recognition of Tyndall's continued commitment to supporting Arbor Day, which is held Jan. 21 each year.

